Challenges and Opportunities for Achieving and Measuring Impact of Social Learning at Scale by Pratiti Priyadarshini, Foundation for Ecological Security, India

Abstract

India is the world's 13th most water stressed country and 54 percent of the country faces high to extremely water stress. While there is considerable headway in terms of technological solutions to improve water availability or enhance water-use efficiency, we realize that in the absence of effective coordination among water users to regulate and monitor water use, water easily depletes. There are deeper issues of water management and governance that needs to be addressed. As the competition for freshwater intensifies and the urgency to change the status quo increasingly felt, the key question is how to promote coordination, rules and behavior in a participatory way without external imposition and in a low-cost manner that supports large scale implementation. This presentation aims to share our experiences of scaling the application of experiential learning methods and tools such as Experimental Games, Crop Water Budgeting and Composite Landscape Assessment and Restoration Tool to facilitate social learning amongst farmers and stimulate behavioral change for equitable and sustainable water use. We share about the multiple challenges, opportunities and the building blocks for improving water governance across varied contexts. We also discuss the methods and indicators for measuring the change.